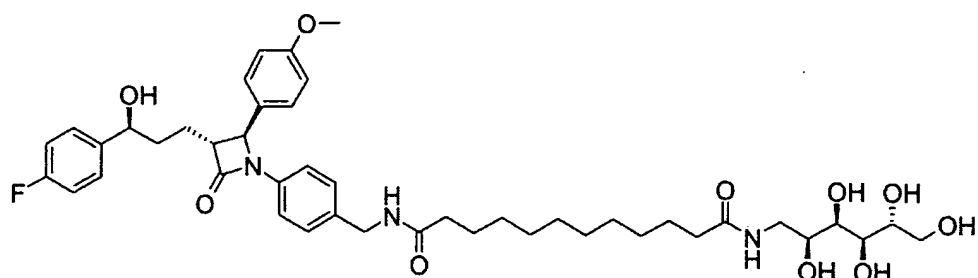


Claims:

1. A compound of the formula I



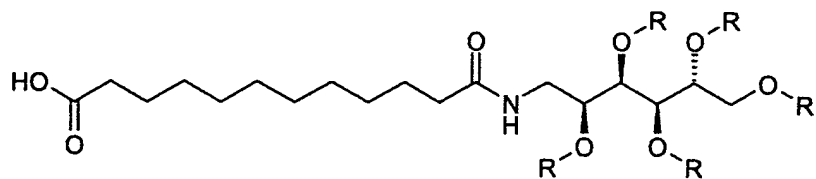
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or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound of Claim 1.
3. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 2 further comprising at least one additional active ingredient.
4. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 3 wherein said additional active ingredient normalizes lipid metabolism.
5. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 3 wherein said additional active ingredient is selected from the group comprising antidiabetics, hypoglycemically active compounds, anti-adipose drugs, anorectics, HMG-CoA-reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, PPAR gamma agonists, PPAR alpha agonists, PPAR alpha/gamma agonists, fibrates, MTP inhibitors, bile acid absorption inhibitors, CETP inhibitors, polymeric bile acid adsorbers, LDL receptor inducers, ACAT inhibitors, antioxidants, lipoprotein lipase inhibitors, ATP citrate lyase inhibitors, squalene synthetase inhibitors, lipoprotein (a) antagonists, lipase inhibitors, insulins, sulfonylureas, biguanides, meglitinides, thiazolidinediones, α -glucosidase inhibitors, active compounds acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel of beta cells, CART agonists, NPY agonists, cannabinoid receptor 1 antagonists, MCH receptor antagonists, MC4

- agonists, orexin agonists, H3 agonists, TNF agonists, CRF agonists, CRF BP antagonists, GLP-1 derivatives, urocortin agonists, β 3 agonists, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, CCK-A agonists, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, mixed serotonin and noradrenergic compounds, 5HT agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormones, growth-hormone-releasing compounds, TRH agonists, decoupling protein-2 or -3 modulators, leptin agonists, DA agonists (bromocriptine, doprexin), lipase/amylase inhibitors, 11β -HSD1 inhibitors, ACC inhibitors, DPP-IV inhibitors, PPAR modulators, RXR modulators, TR- β -agonists and amphetamines.
- 5
- 10
6. A method of treating disorders of lipid metabolism comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 15
7. A method of treating hyperlipidemia comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 20
8. A method of lowering serum cholesterol concentration comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 25
9. A method of treating arteriosclerotic symptoms comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
- 30
10. A method of treating insulin resistance comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
11. An intermediate of the formula III

29

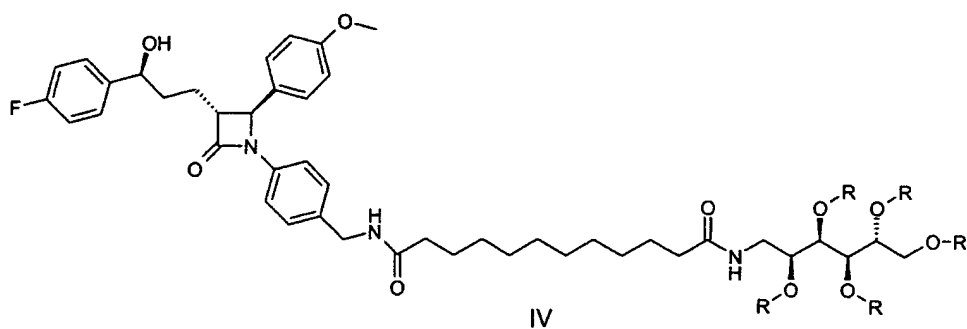


III

wherein R is acetyl, benzoyl, aryl (C₁-C₁₂)-alkylaryl or (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl.

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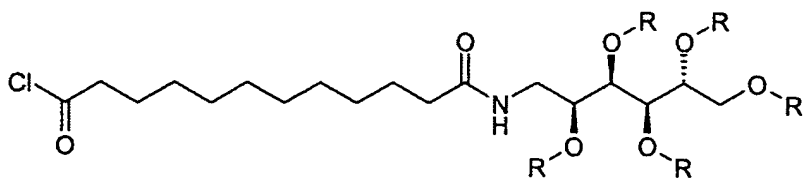
12. An intermediate of the formula IV



IV

10 in which R is acetyl, benzoyl, aryl (C₁-C₁₂)-alkylaryl or (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl.

13. An intermediate of the formula VIII



VIII

15

wherein R is acetyl, benzoyl, aryl (C₁-C₁₂)-alkylaryl or (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl.